

# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

**IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: Black-throated Sparrow, 20 March 1993, Waterloo, Black Hawk County. Photo by Reid I. Allen.

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## Meet an Iowa Birder and Educator: Linda Zaletel

*Hank Zaletel*

*My wife Linda had three mentors who were instrumental in encouraging her affinity with birds and in shaping and molding her career path. Her mother, Betty Ford, always fed birds. As her mother's interest increased, she invited Linda to accompany her on birding trips for security purposes and companionship. A favorite place to bird was the Des Moines River in the area that is now Saylorville Reservoir. Soon Linda was recording her bird observations and had created a life list.*



*Linda Zaletel*

At the same time, her high school friend, Marlyn Smith, formerly of Iowa City and now of Atlanta, Georgia, also was interested in birds. Her attraction to birding developed in the same manner as Linda's through her mother. Marlyn's family moved several times; each location offered new habitats and areas for Linda and Marlyn to bird.

Linda was born 6 July 1952 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her family soon moved to Des Moines where she was raised. She attended schools in Des Moines and Urbandale and graduated from Hoover High School in Des Moines in 1970.

That summer she began working at *The Des Moines Register and Tribune* where I was employed. We soon became friends and I convinced her to go to Europe the following summer. After six weeks of backpacking and staying in youth hostels, we agreed that we were compatible. We were married in August 1972 in Des Moines.

As her interest in birds increased, Linda sought information on the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU). In 1974, Ruth Buckles,

treasurer of the IOU, lived only four blocks from us. Linda showed Ruth her birding observations and life list. After some discussion, they agreed that Linda should become a member of the IOU. Linda attended the spring meeting held in Ames that year. She fondly remembers the Ayres from Ottumwa, especially Charles because he was IOU president then.

In January 1975, Linda and I moved to the Chicago area so I could attend graduate school. Because we did not know anyone and both of us were lonely, Linda decided to learn about the local bird clubs. Through the Chicago Ornithologists' Union, Linda met her third mentor Isabel Wasson of River Forest, Illinois.

Isabel and her companion, Marge Shawvan, were in their 70s. Isabel was a strong-willed woman who graduated from college in the 1920s with a master's degree in geology. She then was employed by an oil company and traveled throughout the United States. This happened at a time when a woman's place was thought to be in the home. During Isabel's travels, she collected a cabinet full of curiosities that always entertained us when we visited. Isabel's strong will and independence, at a time when this was unusual, had a strong influence on Linda.

During this period, Marlyn announced that she had found the perfect career for Linda and herself. They would become naturalists and teach environmental education! In addition, at this time Linda and I visited the Little Red School House of the Cook County Forest Preserve. It contained snakes, frogs, turtles, and all sorts of wildlife information and displays that we had never seen presented. Linda said this was the type of place where she wanted to work.

In the fall of 1976, she began attending classes at Triton College in River Grove, Illinois. The following spring, she applied to Iowa State University in Ames and began classes in the fall. Much like Isabel, she enrolled in the fisheries and wildlife biology program, a field that, at that time, was 99% male. She completed her B.S. in December 1981. In the summer of 1978, she worked for the Story County Conservation Board as a campground attendant; the following year, as a ranger. It was during this time that she began providing environmental programs to the campers.

In January 1981, our first daughter Anne was born, followed in November 1983 by another daughter Elizabeth.

In 1985, Linda was a member of the IOU's Publication Committee. One of the biggest decisions she had to assist with that year was

the next editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. There were two good candidates in Tom Kent and Pete Petersen.

At about the same time, there was discussion among Publication Committee members about starting a newsletter. They wanted it to highlight material that was of a more temporal nature: field trips, meeting announcements, Christmas count dates, and the like. Linda volunteered the two of us for the job. During the first two years, the *I.O.U. News* was produced manually. In 1987, we acquired our first computer. Linda soon mastered the PageMaker program. We created a division of labor: I obtained and edited the articles and Linda provided artistic formatting skills. We continued as editors until December 2000.

During the fall of 1990, an IOU Education Committee was formed to develop a curriculum on Iowa birds. The committee consisted of Rick Hollis, Linda, Beth Brown, Bernie Knight, and Diane Porter. Most teachers are generalists and will not develop new curricula because of the time and effort required. Hence, there was no teaching aide on Iowa birds available for teachers.

Each member of the committee was assigned to develop a certain portion of the book. Linda served as editor and creative guide for the project. A thousand copies of *A Teacher's Activity Booklet about . . . Iowa Birds* were printed at a cost of \$2,500. The Iowa Conservation Education Council donated \$500 toward its printing. The Council also served as a distributor for the publication at its many regional meeting and seminars. The book was well received and by the fall of 1994 all copies had been sold.

Linda began working on a second edition adding chapters on the state bird, extinct birds, and birding pioneers of Iowa. A second edition of 1,000 copies was printed in 1997.

In early 1997, Linda attended a workshop on "One Bird—Two Habitats," a program on birds that had been developed for middle-school students in the state of Wisconsin. The program dealt with neotropical, migratory birds that nest in North America in the summer and winter in Central and South America.

Linda believed such a program could be developed for Iowa. She assembled a group to work on portions of the project. Kay Neumann developed the activities; Lisa Hemesath, the scientific papers; Linette Riley, the layout and design; and Linda served as the administrator.

Eleven environmental groups agreed to sponsor *Solve the Crime: Save the Song of Spring! Neotropical Migratory Birds and Their Midwestern Connections*. The IOU contributed \$2,000 toward publication of



Linda Zaletel

the document.

Linda continues to work for Story County Conservation Board as an environmental educator. Every school in Story County sends their kindergarten through fifth grade classes through the program. In addition, Linda has a monthly program for senior citizens (OWLS—Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors), a Halloween hike, and a class or two on tent camping and Dutch oven cooking.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, tent camping, traveling, hiking, and mountain climbing, especially in the western United States during the summer where there is very little humidity and few insects. Her next goal is to go trekking in Nepal.

I would venture a guess that all birders have a bird or bird group that is special to them. In this respect, Linda is no different. She loves owls! Whether it was first finding a Northern Saw-whet Owl on the Lost Lake trail at Ledges State Park or pursuing the Long- and Short-eared owls on 100th Street at Big Creek State Park that caused her love of owls,

Linda now surrounds herself with them. A large, stuffed Great Horned Owl sits over her desk in her office looking down at her and at home Robert Bateman's "Mossy Owl" surveys our living room. Even our kitchen is filled with owl drinking mugs. And our e-mail address begins with [madowl@midiowa.net](mailto:madowl@midiowa.net)!

Finally, in appreciation to her mentors, Linda dedicated the teacher's activity guide to her mother Betty Ford, Marlyn Smith, Ruth Buckles, and Isabel Wasson. In Linda's words, "These women first sparked my interest in birds."

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# Observations of Caged Birds in Mexico

Robert I. Cecil

*My wife and I visited the west central Mexican states of Colima and Jalisco in December 2000, and I made some observations regarding the sale of caged birds in Mexico. My interest in this stems in part from issues that have been discussed by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Records Committee regarding the possible origin of vagrant or escaped species. Two reports that come to mind include a male Painted Bunting that visited an eastern Iowa feeder for a few hours on 6 January 1987 and an immature male Yellow Grosbeak near Des Moines from 24 November to 7 January 1991. Both of these records ultimately were rejected due to questions of origin.*



*Robert I. Cecil*

My son John visited the Mercado (Market) Libertad in Guadalajara, Jalisco a few years ago and, aware of the problem of species origin, urged me to note species seen in the bird stalls if I visited. I normally avoid large Mexican markets (it means my wife is shopping), but I went along and took my son's advice. The following species were observed:

1. Brown-backed Solitaire. Many were individually caged and well-cared-for. This hauntingly voiced bird can be heard from homes throughout Mexico and evidently is valuable enough to take care of.
2. Slate-colored Solitaire. A few.
3. Northern Mockingbird. Several.
4. Orange-breasted Bunting. A few.
5. Rufous-backed Robin. One or two.
6. Northern Cardinal. A few.



7. Painted Bunting. Many were seen. It probably was the most common of birds here. Some were in very bad physical shape and were held in deplorable conditions.
8. House Finch. It was fairly common.
9. Lesser Goldfinch. This species was numerous.
10. Spot-breasted Oriole. One.
11. Indigo Bunting. One.

Of course, there were many old world birds (canaries, etc.) and many Psittaciformes (parrots and allies). Elsewhere on the trip, I saw caged Pyrrhuloxia and Streak-backed Oriole and, in March 2000 in Ciudad Guzman, Jalisco, I saw a man with a cage full of Lark Sparrows for sale.

I posted this report on the now-defunct Audubon Society Mexico birding listserv and received two pertinent replies, both confirming the presence of captive Yellow Grosbeaks in Mexico. One of the respondents provided a list of 58 species he had found in captivity there.

While the presence of particular caged species in Mexico should not automatically result in the rejection of extralimital observations of those same species in Iowa, there are reasons for exercising caution when accepting them. From personal observation, caged birds are very popular in Mexico. With the large influx of Mexican immigrants into Iowa and the upper Midwest, it is not unreasonable to assume that, at least in some cases, their pet birds are included in the move and may ultimately escape captivity. While such importation is not legal, it presumably is difficult to control and probably will continue.

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# Field Reports — Spring 2001

*Matthew C. Kenne*

## WEATHER

March was consistently cold and persistently snowy. Temperatures averaged more than 5 degrees below normal for the month, and only reached 62 degrees on the 30th. Snow covered 95% of the state on the 1st, while Sanborn still had one inch of snow cover until April 2nd, setting a new record for continuous snow cover that began on November 7, 2000. April turned around with temperatures almost 4 degrees above normal, with 80 degrees reached on the 7th and 90 degrees reached at Harlan on the 26th. Severe thunderstorms and high winds were more numerous than usual. Widespread minor flooding occurred across the state because of heavy rains and snowmelt, and near record flooding occurred along the Mississippi River. May temperatures were like day and night: the first 20 days averaged almost 6 degrees above normal, while the last 11 days were 9 degrees below normal. May also was wet statewide, averaging almost three inches above average precipitation.



*Matthew C. Kenne*

## GENERAL TRENDS

Late ice breakup across the state meant waterfowl massed on the Mississippi River in southeastern Iowa at the beginning of March had nowhere else to go. Jim Dinsmore reported ice was out on Saylorville Reservoir on April 5th. The passage of diving ducks was very fast with dabblers soon filling lakes and flooded fields. Grebes (except Pied-billed) were more widely reported than usual. High water levels may have attracted more bitterns and Black-crowned Night-Herons this spring, or it just made them easier to observe, and Cattle Egrets also liked the flooded fields. Only one "White-winged" or "Black-backed" gull was reported. Many early and first-of-the-year passerine sightings were reported with the warm weather of late April, especially on the 27th and 28th. Birders in northern Iowa felt slighted by the shorebird migration given the abundance of flooded fields, but were repaid with many southern overshoots and stalled late migrant warblers.

## SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental species (\* = documented) (List = IABird Listserv)

**Common Loon:** First: 21 Mar at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids (MCD) and 28 Mar at Clear L. (CJF). There were fifteen other reports, with a peak in early April of 4 birds at Rathbun L. (RLC) and Big Creek L. (BE). Last: 20 May at Amana Lily L. in Iowa Co. (MCD) and 26 May at Lost Island L. (LAS).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** First: 21 Mar at Cone Marsh in Louisa Co. (MPr).

**Horned Grebe:** First: 15 Mar at Cedar L. (MCD). There were over twenty reports. Most reported: about 30 at Clear L. on 21 Apr (PH). Last and far south: 2 on 4 May at Sedan Bottoms in Appanoose Co. (JJD).

**Red-necked Grebe:** All: 15–18 Apr at Spirit L. (ETh, MPr), 20 Apr at Pleasant Creek RA in Linn Co. (CE), 20–21 Apr near Iowa City (MCD, CE), 22–23 Apr at Clear L. (PH, CJF, RGo), 27 Apr in Boone Co. (JJD), and 11 May at Sweet Marsh in Bremer Co. (TS).

**Eared Grebe:** First: 17 Apr near Hubbard (MPr). There also were more than twenty reports for this species. Most reported in May: 4 at Grover's L. and West Okoboji L. (LAS). Last: 25 May at Kiowa Marsh in Sac Co. (JJD).

**Western Grebe:** First: 21 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most reported: 3 on 16 May at West Okoboji L. (ETh). Last: 26 May at Forney L. (PHA, RIA). Ten reports are more than normal.

**CLARK'S GREBE:** All, or conceivably the same bird: 28 Apr–7 May at Hallett's quarry at Ames (\*JJD, \*GDW, RIA-photo), and 12 May at Trumbull L. and 19 May at Dan Green Slough in Clay Co. (\*LAS).

**American White Pelican:** 5 that wintered below Saylorville dam (JJD), and birds on 3 Mar in Lee Co. (CE) and below Red Rock dam (MPr) were surprising after such a harsh winter. Flocks of 200–500 were reported from across the state. Late: 25 on 29 May in Boone Co. (KJ), and 35 on 31 May at Ventura Marsh in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** First: 4 Apr in Greene Co. (MPr), and 8 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE) and in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most reported: 675 on 20 Apr at Lake Manawa (BKP, LJP). Nineteen nests were active on 7 May at the Hawkeye WA colony in Johnson Co. (CE).

**American Bittern:** First of twenty reports: 7 Apr at Cardinal Marsh in Winnesheik Co. (DeC). Most reported: 3 on 3 May at Dunbar Slough in Greene Co. (RTh) and 4 on 12 May in Boone and Hamilton counties (KJ).

**Least Bittern:** Ten May reports of singles NE of a line from Mill Creek SP in O'Brien Co. to Horseshoe Bend in Louisa Co. are more than usual.

**Great Blue Heron:** A hardy individual was below Saylorville dam on 11 Mar (BE).

**Great Egret:** First: 9 Apr at Saylorville L. (PHA, RIA). Most reported: 43 on 12 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 24 on 23 May at Horseshoe Bend (CE).

**Snowy Egret:** All: 21 Apr in Poweshiek Co. (MPR), 12 May in Van Buena Co. (Corey Holden fide David Killman), and 12 May at New Albin (FL).

**Little Blue Heron:** All: an adult 1–4 May near Paullina (DK), an adult 8–11 May at Squaw Creek Pk in Linn Co. (MCD, CE, JLF), and 12 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**TRICOLORED HERON:** 25–28 May at Forney L. (\*BKP, \*LJP).

**Cattle Egret:** First of more than twenty reports: 10 Apr in Audubon Co. (MPR). Most reported: 25 on 2 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Green Heron:** First: 2 on 30 Apr at Cone Marsh (CE).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** One seen 6 Mar wintered at Cedar Lake (THK). First migrants: 14 Apr at Cardinal Marsh (DeC) and Amana Lily L. (MCD). Most reported: 10 on 24 Apr at Mill Creek SP (DK). Twelve other reports of up to 7 birds is a good showing for this species.

**Ibis species:** 4 on 3 May at Dunbar Slough in Greene Co. (RTh).

**GLOSSY IBIS:** A report was referred to the Records Committee.

**White-faced Ibis:** All: 10 on 20 Apr in Boone Co. (PHA, RIA), 3–4 from 29 Apr until 12 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC, JJD), 12 May in Van Buren Co. (Corey Holden fide David Killman), and 25–26 May at Forney L. (BKP, LJP).

**Turkey Vulture:** First: 19 Mar at Big Creek SP (CE) and 2 on 21 Mar in Lee Co. (MPR). Most reported: 65 on 28 Mar at Des Moines (PJW).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** First: 20 on 3 Mar in Lee Co. (CE). Most reported from the east this year: 500 on 10 Mar at Cone Marsh, 300 on 17 Mar at Hawkeye WA, and 500 on 19 Mar at Amana Lily L. (all CE). Last stragglers: 2 on 27 May at Tomahawk M. in Ida Co. (PE) and 27 May in Clay Co. (PH, LAS).

**Snow Goose:** Few reported. Last: 27 May in Clay Co. (LAS), 28 May near Iowa City (MCD), and 78 on 28 May at Forney L. (BKP, LJP).

**Ross's Goose:** All: 13 Mar at Red Rock L. (THK), 17 and 31 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 22 on 29 Mar at MidAmerican Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP, LJP), 5–9 Apr at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MPR), and 10 Apr at Cardinal Marsh (Bob Chapman Jr. fide DeC).

**Mute Swan:** Three reports of pairs is not a good sign: 11 Mar at Evansdale (THK), 17–18 Mar at Clear L. (CJF, PH), and 22 May at the intersection of Hwys 141 and 169 (PHA, RIA).

**Trumpeter Swan:** There were ten reports of 1–8 birds throughout the period with varying degrees of identification details and reporting of release/"wild" status. One of a released pair nesting at Union Slough NWR lost its collar, a good illustration of how the "countability" situation has become confusing.

**Tundra Swan:** First and most reported: 69 on 17 Mar at Clear L. (CJF, RGo). Last: 46 on 23 Apr at Zirbel Slough in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

- American Black Duck:** All: 2 on 17 Mar at Hawkeye WA (CE), 21 Apr at Riverton in Fremont Co. (BKP, LJP), and 31 May at Clear L. (PH, CJF).
- Cinnamon Teal:** All: 14 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), 15 and 20 Apr at Errington Marsh in Polk Co. (BE, PHA, RIA), and 28 Apr at Harrier Marsh in Boone Co. (KJ). The birds in Cerro Gordo and Boone counties were identified as hybrids with Blue-winged Teal.
- Northern Pintail:** Most reported: 200 on 17 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Green-winged Teal:** 2 drakes were still at Dan Green Slough on 28 May (LAS).
- Canvasback:** Most reported: 30,000 was a conservative estimate on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. on 3 Mar (CE). Late pairs: 19 May at Bluewing Marsh in Palo Alto Co. (LAS) and 27 May at Maynard Reece WPA in Kossuth Co. (MCK).
- Redhead:** Many were still on wetlands in NW Iowa at the end of May (LAS).
- Ring-necked Duck:** Most reported: 267 on 8 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE).
- Greater Scaup:** All: 13 Mar at Red Rock L. (THK), 2 on 17 Mar at Hawkeye WA (CE), 9 on 31 Mar at Rathbun L. (RLC), and 23 Apr at Clear L. (CJF).
- Surf Scoter:** 19–23 May at Ruthven sewage lagoons (LAS, PH, MCK).
- White-winged Scoter:** 9–14 May at the S & G quarry near Iowa City (MCD, CE, JLF, THK).
- Long-tailed Duck:** 13 Mar at Red Rock L. (THK) and 18 Apr at Jemmerson Slough in Dickinson Co. (ETh, MPr).
- Common Goldeneye:** Most reported: 500 on 3 Mar in Lee Co. (CE). Last: 29 May near Iowa City (MCD).
- Common Merganser:** Most reported: 500 on 13 Mar at Red Rock L. (THK) and 650 on 18 Mar at Saylorville L. (BE). A very worn female was still at Spirit L. on 25 May (JJD).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Most reported: 176 at Saylorville L. on 8 Apr is almost a repeat of last year (BE). Last: a pair on 23 May at Bluewing Marsh (LAS).
- Ruddy Duck:** Like Redheads, on many wetlands in late May including several courting pairs at Union Slough NWR on 27 May (MCK) and 9 on 29 May at Dan Green Slough (LAS).
- Osprey:** First: 1 Apr at Cedar Lake (CE) and 2 Apr in Boone Co. (JJD). Nesting activity was observed at Cayler Prairie on 14 Apr (ETh) and Hottes L. on 28 Apr (LAS).
- Mississippi Kite:** First: 7 May in Des Moines (Amy Offenburger-List) [record early]. A nesting pair were observed in Des Moines on 17 May (BE), but there was no nesting activity reported with a pair in Warren Co. on 27 May (JSi).
- Bald Eagle:** Most reported: 60 at Red Rock L. on 13 Mar (THK). Twenty were counted on 19 Mar migrating over Algona (MCK).
- Northern Harrier:** First: 2 on 4 Mar in Washington Co. (JJ).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** First: 7 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH) and a migrant on 19 Mar at Algona (MCK).

**Cooper's Hawk:** First: 1 Mar at Des Moines (RIC). Nests were found at Woodland Mounds Preserve in Warren Co. (JSi) and Call SP in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Late migrants or possible local nesters were seen on 28 May in Clay Co. (LAS) and at Algona (MCK).

**Northern Goshawk:** No reports.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** First: 14 Mar at Grammer Grove in Marshall Co. (MPr). Found on migration in Kossuth (2), Cerro Gordo (2), and Dickinson counties 19 Mar until 15 Apr. More amazing still were sightings in SW Clay Co. on 18 Mar and 16 and 28 May (ETh, LAS). I may have been hasty in labeling last year's O'Brien Co. bird a migrant.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** First: 9 Apr at Lake MacBride in Johnson Co. (MCD-details) [third earliest]. Few were reported, and "kettles" consisted of only 1-4 birds. Mark Proescholdt only found 2 this spring.

**Swainson's Hawk:** First: 8 Apr in Mills Co. (BKE, LJP). Last: 23 May in Clay Co. (MCK, PH, LAS). Ten other reports including 6 birds drawn to a controlled burn at Union Slough NWR on 18 Apr (refuge personnel fide MCK).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Most reported: 30 on 10 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 28 on 19 Mar migrating over Algona (MCK). Single Harlan's Hawks were found among the 19 Mar Algona migrants and on 1 Apr near Goldfield (MCK).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Last: 3 Apr at Ridgeway (DeC) and 8 Apr at Union Slough NWR (MCK).

**Golden Eagle:** All: 4 Mar at Waterman Creek in O'Brien Co. (LAS), 22 Mar at Fish Farm Mounds in Allamakee Co. (FL), and 1 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Merlin:** First: 3 Mar on a Milford church steeple (LAS). Last: 10 May at Iowa City (THK). Eight other reports of single birds included one that wintered near Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines (RIC).

**Peregrine Falcon:** First: 19 Mar over Algona (MCK). Six late reports 19-26 May in west and northern Iowa.

**GYRFALCON:** An imm. hunting on 3 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (\*Ben Ohlander) and an imm. found injured on 9 Mar in O'Brien Co. (LAS-photo) might be considered an invasion.

**Prairie Falcon:** 1 Mar at Sioux City (RIC-details) and 30 Mar near Algona (MCK-details).

**Gray Partridge:** Reported north of a Buchanan/Johnson/Polk/Palo Alto Co. line. There were few birds reported and the winter was undoubtedly hard on them.

**Ruffed Grouse:** No reports.

**GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN:** 9 on 18 Apr at Kellerton WA in Ringgold Co. did not care that they were not "countable" (PHA, RIA). One found dead on 15 May near Lawton in Woodbury Co. also was not countable, but it does raise questions about unknown breeding areas in the west (\*DBi).

**SHARP-TAILED GROUSE:** A small number, apparently from birds released in Monona County in 1995, still survive in southern Woodbury County. Seventy-eight additional birds from South Dakota were released in April to augment this population (Ed Weiner fide JJD).

**Northern Bobwhite:** 12 May at Williams Prairie in Johnson Co. was Tom Kent's first for the year.

**Yellow Rail:** 6 and 10 May at Snake Creek Marsh was the only report (DT). Why is this the only regularly reported location?

**Virginia Rail:** First: 23 Apr at Otter Creek Marsh in Tama Co. (CE). One found in an Iowa City parking garage was a life bird for Julie Englander (fide THK).

**Sora:** First: 3 on 21 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and at Muskrat Slough in Jones Co. (MCD).

**Common Moorhen:** 3 May at Dunbar Slough (RTh) and 4 on 19 May at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (MCD).

**American Coot:** First: 17 Mar in Allamakee Co. (FL). Most reported: 1000+ on 14 Apr in Hancock Co. (PH). Many were nesting at Maynard Reece WPA on 27 May (MCK).

**Sandhill Crane:** Thirteen reports of 1–3 birds beginning 18 Mar at Cone Marsh (CE). A nest with 2 eggs was found 20 Apr at Cardinal Marsh by Bob Chapman Jr. (fide DeC).

**Black-bellied Plover:** First: 3 on 13 May in Sac Co. (PE). Most reported: 15 on 17 May at Hawkeye WA (JLF) and 18 on 22 May in Hardin Co. (MPr). Last: 2 on 28 May at Hawkeye WA (CE).

**American Golden-Plover:** First: 12 on 9 Apr in Pocahontas Co. (PE) and 10 on 10 Apr near Cone Marsh (THK). Most reported: 150+ at Colo Ponds in Story Co. on 16 May (MPr). Last: about 50 on 23 May in Clay Co. (PH, MCK).

**Semipalmated Plover:** First: 27 Apr at Colo Ponds (MPr). Most reported: 75 on 12 May at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 4 on 31 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

**Piping Plover:** All reports were from MidAmerican Ponds: 20 Apr (BKP, LJP) and 2 on 18–24 May (RTh, PHA, RIA).

**Killdeer:** First: 11 Mar at Saylorville dam (BE).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** 27 Apr at Cone Marsh (\*THK).

**American Avocet:** First: 14 Apr at Hawkeye WA (MCD). Most reported: 9 on 21 Apr at Lytton sewage lagoons (PE). Last: 28 May at Hawkeye WA (MCD).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** First 2 Apr at Otter Creek Marsh (MPr). Most reported: 13 on 15 Apr at Moeckly Prairie (BE), and 13 on 18 Apr in Palo Alto Co. (MPr).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** First: 8 Apr at Errington Marsh (BE). Most reported: 120 on 20 Apr at Cardinal Marsh (Bob Chapman Jr. fide DeC) and 120 on 10 May at Dunbar Slough (DT). Last: 2 on 28 May at Hawkeye WA (CE).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** First: 21 Apr at South Twin L. in Calhoun Co. (PE) and 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Last: 22 May at Colo Ponds (MPr).

**Willet:** First: 21 Apr at Lytton lagoons (PE). Most reported: 41 on 29 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS) and 34 on 30 Apr near Clear L. (CJF, RGo). Last: 12 on 3 May at Dunbar Slough (RTh).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** First: 21 Apr at Lizard L. in Pocahontas Co. (PE) and 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** First: 20 Apr at Cardinal Marsh (DeC-details). Most reported: 20 on 20 May in Ida Co. (PE). Last: 29 May at Colo Ponds (MPr).

**Marbled Godwit:** All: 21 Apr at Dugout Creek in Dickinson Co. (ETH-details), 24–25 Apr at Colo Ponds (MPr-details), 20 on 22 May at Cardinal Marsh (DeC-details).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** First: 2 on 12 May at Hawkeye WA (JLF, THK). Most reported: 8 on 24 May at MidAmerican Ponds (PHA, RIA). Last: 28 May at Hawkeye WA (CE).

**Sanderling:** First 22 Apr at Big Creek L. (BE). Most and last reported: 8 on 24 May at MidAmerican Ponds (PHA, RIA).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** First: 2 on 25 Apr at Colo Ponds (MPr). Most reported: 150 on 21 May at Hawkeye WA (CE). Last: 20 on 28 May at Hawkeye WA (CE).

**Western Sandpiper:** 17 May at Hawkeye WA (JLF-details).

**Least Sandpiper:** First: 13 Apr at Snyder Bend in Woodbury Co. (MPr). Last: 4 on 28 May at Hawkeye WA (CE).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** First: 8 May at Colo Ponds (MPr). Most reported: 150+ on 24 May in Mills Co. (PHA, RIA). Still present at three locations in central Iowa on 28 May.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** First: 18 Apr near Clear L. (RGo). Most reported: 19 on 23 Apr near Clear L. (RGo). Last: 3 on 28 May in Warren Co. (AJ).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** First: 4 Apr at Lakin Slough in Guthrie Co. (MPr). Most reported: 100 on 11 Apr at Lake MacBride (THK). Last: 28 May at Hawkeye WA (CE).

**Dunlin:** First: 5 on 25 Apr at Maynard Reece WPA (MCK). Most reported: 58 on 27 May at Colo Ponds (HZ) and 62 on 28 May at Cardinal Marsh (DeC). Three other reports of 10–27 birds on 28–29 May in central Iowa indicate a late migration.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** First: 12 May at Colo Ponds (MPr). Most and last reported: 8 on 25 May in Mills Co. (BKP, LJP).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** No reports.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** First: 3 on 27 Apr at Cone Marsh (THK-details). Most reported: 50+ on 4 May at Dunbar Slough (PE-without details). Last: 2 on 25 May in Mills Co. (BKP, LJP).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** First: 23 Apr in Ida Co. (PE) and 3 on 24 Apr at Colo Ponds (MPr). Most and last reported: 35 on 2 May near Union Slough NWR (MCK-details).

**Common Snipe:** First: 6 on 2 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

**American Woodcock:** First: 10 Mar at Lake Anita in Cass Co. (PHA, RIA). Most reported: about 12 on 8 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** First: 5 on 21 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 7 on 21 Apr in Boone Co. (MPr). Seven other reports. Last: 2 on 27 May at Smithland sewage lagoons (PE).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** All: 2 on 12 May at Hawkeye WA (MCD, CE), 13 May in Sac Co. (PE), 2 on 23 May in Clay Co. (MCK, LAS, PH), 2 on 24 May in Mills Co. (PHA, RIA), and 2 on 25 May in Sac Co. (JJD).

**Laughing Gull:** A report was referred to the Records Committee.



**Franklin's Gull:** First: 13 Mar at Red Rock dam in alternate plumage (THK, mob). Most reported: 425 on 12 May in Clay Co. (LAS). Last: 200 on 25 May near Storm Lake (JJD) and 135 on 26 May at Forney L. (BKP, LJP).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** First: 3 on 30 Mar at Cherokee sewage lagoons (PE). Most reported: 85 on 23 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 14 May at MidAmerican Ponds (Mark Orsag-List).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Most reported: 20,000 on 31 Mar at Lake Manawa (BKP, LJP).

**Herring Gull:** Last: 28 May at Hawkeye WA (CE).

**Thayer's Gull:** A report was referred to the Records Committee.

**Caspian Tern:** First: 23 Apr at Pleasant Creek RA (CE). Most reported: 120 on 12 May at Rathbun L. (RLC). Last: 17 on 20 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

**Common Tern:** There were seven reports of 1–3 birds with few details 6–31 May.

**Forster's Tern:** First: 14 Apr in Lee Co. (DKi). Most reported: 3 reports of 20–25 birds.

**Least Tern:** A good find away from the Missouri R., one on 7 May near Primghar was also early (DK-details) [second earliest]. There were three other reports of 1–2 birds from MidAmerican Ponds 18–26 May.

**Black Tern:** First: 6 on 11 May at Cone Marsh (CE). Migration peaked later this year with hundreds on the wetlands of the Lakes Region 21–25 May (JJD), 100 on 26 May at Forney L. (BKP, LJP), and 100 on 31 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** There were the usual reports from Grinnell, and one on 26 Mar was a new yard bird for Killman at Fairfield (DKi).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** All: 5–6 May at the IOU Spring Meeting at Keosauqua (mob), 11 May in Muscatine Co. (CE) and Floyd Co. (PH), 17 and 23 May at Grammer Grove (MPr), and 29 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** First: 28 Apr at Des Moines (RIC-details) [record early]. Cuckoos were scarce this spring: 5–6 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (MPr, mob), 21–22 in Boone Co. (KJ), 23 May in Clay Co. (PH, MCK) were the only ones Proescholdt, Jungbluth, and I observed this spring.

**Barn Owl:** An injured bird was found 25 Apr in Story Co., but it died the next day (Linda Zaletel).

**Snowy Owl:** The only report was of a road-kill found 21 Mar in Sioux Co. (DBi-List).

**Long-eared Owl:** All: 2 on 17 Mar at Hawkeye WA (CE), 1 Apr in Worth Co. (PH), and 26 Apr at Mason City (RGo).

**Short-eared Owl:** All: 17 Mar at Hawkeye WA (CE), 8 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), and 25 Apr at Virgin L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 2–5 Mar at Ledges SP (PHA, RIA-Photo, RLC) and 2 on 10 Mar at Arney Bend WA in Marshall Co. (MPr).

**Common Nighthawk:** First: 4 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (mob).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** No reports for the second straight year.

**Whip-poor-will:** First: 2 May in Boone Co. (KJ).

**Chimney Swift:** First: 20 Apr at Amana Lily L. (CE). Most reported: 200 on 29 May at Ames (HZ).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** First: 29 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ). Last: 28 May at Wanata SP in Clay Co. (PE).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** First: 1 Apr at Amana Woods in Iowa Co. (CE).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Rarely reported from river valleys in the west and central parts of the state: 24 Apr at Call SP (MCK) and 28 May at Wanata SP (PE).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 7 May in Blackhawk Co. (TS). Most reported: 6 on 28 May in Buena Vista Co. (PE). Last: 2 on 29 May in Boone Co. (KJ).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** First: 2 on 5 May in Lee Co. (RLC, CE).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** First: 18 May at Moorehead Pk in Ida Grove (PE). Most: 3 on 23 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 2 on 30 May at Smith WA in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** First: 5–6 May in Lee Co. (mob). Most reported: 5 on 17 May at Yellow River Forest in Allamakee Co. (CE). One on 27 May in Greene Co. was a little out of range (BE), while one on 14 May at Hitchcock NA in Pottawattamie Co. was from an area where they are rarely reported (Mark Orsag-List).

**Alder Flycatcher:** First: a bird heard singing 27 Apr over a 20-minute period by two observers was compared to tape recordings while on location at Mason City (CJF-details, RGo). This record early date is two weeks earlier than the median first arrival date in Minnesota of May 12. Like the Acadian, one on 14 May

at Hitchcock NA was good find (Mark Orsag-List). Seven of these late migrants were found 27–30 May at four locations.

**Least Flycatcher:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF) [ties third earliest], and in Appanoose Co. (3), Moorehead Pk, and Grammer Grove on 28 Apr (RLC, PE, MPr).

**SAY'S PHOEBE:** 20 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (\*CRN, \*PH, \*JLW).

**Eastern Phoebe:** First: 19 Mar at Amana Lily L. (CE) and 21 Mar at Pollmiller Pk in Lee Co. (MPr).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** First: 29 Apr at Lake View (PE) and 30 Apr at Cone Marsh (CE).

**Western Kingbird:** Away from western Iowa: 14 May on Nelson's farm in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN), a peak of 6 on 16 May on the State Capitol grounds (MPr), and 23 May near Ingham L. in Emmet Co. (JJD).

**Eastern Kingbird:** First: 25 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The first report was a month later than last year: 1 Apr at Cayler Prairie (ETH). No one reported more than singles.

**Northern Shrike:** Five single reports north from Marshall Co., with the last on 1 Apr in Worth Co. (RGo).

**White-eyed Vireo:** First: 30 Apr at Trumbull L. (LAS). Also in the NW: 5 May at Moorehead Pk (LG). Elsewhere: 3–4 May in Johnson Co (JLF, THK), 6 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (mob), 11 May in Muscatine Co. (CE), and 16 May at Wolf Creek RA in Grundy Co. (PHA, RIA).

**Bell's Vireo:** Reported from Johnson, Cerro Gordo, Marshall, and Warren counties, with a peak of 10 on 19 May in Van Buren Co. (RLC).

- Yellow-throated Vireo:** First: 28 Apr at Mason City (RGo) and 2 on 28 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Blue-headed Vireo:** Reports spanned one month: first five reports 27–28 Apr and last four reports 27–28 May.
- Warbling Vireo:** First: 2 on 26 Apr at Diamond L. (MPr) and 1 on 28 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ). Most reported: 19 on 12 May in Boone Co. (KJ).
- Philadelphia Vireo:** Four reports, all earlier than last year: 28 Apr at Urbandale (BE-details) [record early], 8 May in Floyd Co. (PH), 10 May at Algona (MCK), and 3 on 12 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Red-eyed Vireo:** First: 28 Apr at Urbandale (BE) and at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (THK), 29 Apr in Dubuque Co. (CLW) and 2 on 29 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Purple Martin:** First: 8 Apr in Polk Co. (BE) and 2 on 13 Apr in Sac Co. (MPr).
- Tree Swallow:** First: 17 Mar at Hawkeye WA (CE) and 200 on 22 Mar in Allamakee Co. (FL).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** First: 8 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 2 on 11 Apr in Buchanan Co. (MPr).
- Cliff Swallow:** First: many on 4 Apr in Johnson Co. (JLF).
- Barn Swallow:** First: 17 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC) [third earliest].
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Only 1–2 from 28 Mar until 9 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ), at Des Moines (RIC), and at Iowa City (THK).
- Carolina Wren:** Singles reported from Hardin, Polk, Jackson, and Blackhawk counties. I suspect winter was unkind to this species as well.
- Bewick's Wren:** The famous junkyard wrens near Argyle put on another show for those attending the IOU Spring Meeting.
- House Wren:** First: 16 Apr at Urbandale (BE).
- Winter Wren:** One singing 30 May at Smith WA in Kossuth Co. was late (MCK).
- Sedge Wren:** First: 2 on 25 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Marsh Wren:** First: 21 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First: 3 on 12 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ). Most reported: 18 on 28 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** First: 13 Apr at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (MPr).
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD:** a male on 9 Mar in O'Brien Co. was with 4 Eastern Bluebirds (\*DK).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** 22 Mar at Hitchcock NA (\*MO).
- Veery:** First: 3 May at Mason City (RGo) [ties third earliest].
- Gray-checked Thrush:** First: 30 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most reported: 8 on 12 May at Sharon Bluffs SP in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Last: 2 on 27 May at Grammer Grove (MPr).
- Swainson's Thrush:** First: 29 Apr at Mason City (CJF). Most reported: 20+ on 23 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 30 May at Smith WA (MCK).
- Hermit Thrush:** First: 7 Apr at Cardinal Marsh (DeC) and then at three locations on 9 Apr.
- Wood Thrush:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF) and 2 on 28 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Varied Thrush:** 7 May at Smith's Slough in Clay Co. (LAS-details) [second latest].

**Gray Catbird:** First: 30 Apr in Washington Co. (CE) and Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Nine reports south of a Greene/Boone/Grundy county line.

**Brown Thrasher:** First: 10 Apr in Linn Co. (CLW) and 13 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ).

**American Pipit:** First: 5 on 17 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Few other singles until 12 May in Johnson Co. (JLF, THK).

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** 4 Mar in O'Brien Co. (LAS-details).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** First: 28 Apr in Lee (6), Appanoose, and Poweshiek counties. Most reported: 14 on 17 May at Yellow River Forest (CE). An out of range male was singing 28 May at Buena Vista Co. Pk (PE).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF) [record earliest] and 30 Apr in Washington Co. (CE). Most reported: 3 on 12 May in Marshall Co. (MPr). A Brewster's hybrid was reported 30 Apr at Trumbull L. (LAS).

**Tennessee Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF) and Pine L. in Hardin Co. (MPr). Most reported: 52 in Johnson Co. (CE) and 70 in Boone Co. (KJ), both on 12 May. Last: 3 on 27 May at Grammer Grove (MPr) and 1 on 28 May at Algona (MCK).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** First: 26 Apr at Mason City (CJF, RGo), and 28 Apr at Urbandale (BE) and in Appanoose Co (RLC). Last: 28 May in Warren Co. (JSi).

**Nashville Warbler:** First: 27 April at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF) and then five more reports on 28 Apr.

**Northern Parula:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF). Last migrants: 27 May at Iowa City (CE) and 28 May at Mason City (RGo).

**Yellow Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF), and 29 Apr at Saylorville L. (BE) and in Buchanan Co. (MPr).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** First: 5 May at Ida Grove (LG). Most reported: 8 on 25 May at Hickory Hill Pk in Iowa City (CE). Last: 27 May at Hickory Hill Pk (CE) and Algona (MCK).

**Magnolia Warbler:** First: 5 May at Urbandale (BE) and Moorehead Pk (LG). Most reported: 8 on 12 May in Johnson Co. (CE). Last: 28 May in Boone, Marshall, and Warren counties.

**Cape May Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF). Ten others reported in May. Last: 26 May at Houston Pk in Palo Alto Co. (LAS) and at Algona (MCK) [ties second latest].

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** All males: 8 May in Floyd Co. (RGo), 14 May at Moorehead Pk (LG), and 26 May at Mason City (RGo, PH, CRN) [record latest].

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** First: 10 Apr in Hardin Co. (MPr) and 21 on 10 Apr near Cone Marsh (THK). Last: 23 May at Trumbull L. (MCK).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua Sp (JLF) and 28 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and at Mason City (RGo). Last: 28 and 30 May in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF) [record early]. Last: 28 May at Liscomb (MPr).

- Yellow-throated Warbler:** First: 19 Apr at Hawkeye WA (JLF) and 22 Apr at Des Moines (RLC). A bird nesting at Lacey-Keosauqua SP was seen by many during the IOU spring meeting on 5–6 May. This is one of few confirmed nests in Iowa.
- Pine Warbler:** One eating peanuts at a Princeton feeder 15 Apr stayed a week (Bill Barker-List) [record early] and 2 were singing on 19 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (RLC) [ties third latest].
- Prairie Warbler:** No reports.
- Palm Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Pine L. (MPr) and Mason City (RGo).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Nine single reports from 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua (JLF) [second earliest] until 26 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** First: 30 Apr at Moorehead Pk (PE). Most reported: 15 on 12 May at Sharon Bluffs SP (RLC). Last: 31 May at Nevada (HZ).
- Cerulean Warbler:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF). Chris Edwards reported 24 in eastern Iowa 5–18 May with a peak of 8 on 17 May at Yellow River Forest. An out-of-range bird was seen 19 and 23 May at Wanata SP (LAS).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** First: 23 Apr in Tama Co. (CE) and 24 Apr at Mason City (RGo). Last: 26 May at Liscomb (MPr) and 27 May at Call SP (MCK).
- American Redstart:** First: 29 Apr in Buchanan Co. (MPr) [ties second earliest].
- Prothonotary Warbler:** First: 30 Apr in Washington Co. (CE).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** Only reported from Croton Unit of Shimek SE.
- Ovenbird:** 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua (JLF) and 3 on 28 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Most reported: 30 on 17 May at Yellow River Forest (CE).
- Northern Waterthrush:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF). Last: 27 May at Grammer Grove (MPr).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** First: 8 Apr at Waubonsie SP (BKP, LJP). A pair seen 31 May at Stone SP at Sioux City were unusual (Gerald VonEhwegen-List).
- Kentucky Warbler:** First: 4 on 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF) [ties third earliest]. One hit a window in Iowa City and survived on 29 Apr (Barbara Buckley fide THK-photo). Birds overshot their normal range 4–30 May in Ida (2), Cerro Gordo, and Kossuth counties (LG, PH, MCK).
- Connecticut Warbler:** 8 birds reported 21–27 May from the eastern half of the state.
- Mourning Warbler:** First: 14 May at Mason City (RGo). Last: 29 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH) and 2 on 29 May in Boone Co. (KJ). Only reported from central and north-central Iowa.
- Common Yellowthroat:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua (JLF) and 28 Apr in Marion and Marshall counties.
- Hooded Warbler:** First: 30 Apr at Ida Grove (PE) and in Washington Co. (CE). Last birds were found 6 May at Algona (MCK), 12 May at Nelson's farm in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN), and 27 May in Lyon Co. (DCH).
- Wilson's Warbler:** Last: 14 birds at five locations 27–28 May.

**Canada Warbler:** First: 12 May in Johnson Co. (MCD). Last: 28 May in Boone Co. (KJ) and 2 in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, RGo).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** First: 2 May in Larry Stone's yard (Larry Stone-List). Also found in Van Buren, Bremer, Muscatine, Johnson, and Warren counties.

**Summer Tanager:** First: 4 May at Hartman Reserve in Blackhawk Co. (Kathy Moye fide TS). Found in the north: 6 May at Trumbull L. (LAS-details), 6 May at Spencer (LAS), 8 May at Algona (MCK), and 17 May at Moorehead Pk (PE).

**Scarlet Tanager:** First: 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JLF) and 28 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Spotted Towhee:** All: 27 Apr at Algona (MCK), 28 Apr at Moorehead Pk (PE), and 29 Apr in Carroll Co. (RTh).

**Eastern Towhee:** The bird that wintered at Algona was last seen with the Spotted Towhee 27 Apr (MCK). Many were singing through May at Bertram Reservation in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Chipping Sparrow:** First: 3 on 9 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ) and 1 on 10 Apr in Louisa Co. (THK).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** First: 27 Apr at Algona (MCK). Most reported: 12 on 2 May at Algona (MCK). Last: 2 on 12 May at Coralville Reservoir (THK).

**Field Sparrow:** First: 9 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ) and Tom Kent's yard (THK).

**Vesper Sparrow:** First: 11 Apr in Buchanan Co. (MPr).

**Lark Sparrow:** First: 12 Apr at Hawkeye WA (JLF).

**Savannah Sparrow:** First: 2 on 8 Apr at Errington Marsh (BE) and 1 on 10 Apr in Hardin Co. (MPr).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** First: 21 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Similar to last year: reported from Appanoose, Ringgold, Van Buren, Cerro Gordo, and Jefferson counties.

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** All: 2 on 14 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 on 28 Apr and 5 May near Lacey-Keosauqua SP (THK, CE), and 2 on 7 May at Sweet Marsh (TS).

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 27 May at Snake Creek Marsh and Lakin Slough in Greene Co. (BE).

**Fox Sparrow:** First: 10 Mar in Marshall Co. (MPr). Most reported: 12 on 8 Apr at Patterson WA in Kossuth Co. and 12 on 9 Apr at Call SP (MCK).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** First: 5 on 25 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ). Most reported: 25+ on 28 Apr at Ledges SP (KJ). Last: 23 May in Clay Co. (PH, MCK).

**White-throated Sparrow:** First: 4 Mar at Red Rock L. (RLC). Last: 18 May at Lake Ahquabi SP (JSi).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Last: 2 on 17 May in Boone Co. (KJ).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Last Oregon: 7 Apr at Algona (MCK). Last Slate-colored: 27 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ).

**Lapland Longspur:** The only flocks noted: 150 on 25 Mar in Franklin Co. (PH) and 200 on 31 Mar in Worth Co. (PH).

**Smith's Longspur:** All: 6 on 17 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS), 30 on 25 Apr near Union Slough NWR (MCK), and 12 on 28 Apr in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

**Snow Bunting:** All: 6 on 4 Mar near Algona (MCK), 15 on 6 Mar in Hardin Co. (MPr), 8 on 16 Mar in Marshall Co. (MPr), and 12 on 17 Mar in Benton Co. (MCD).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** First: 23 Apr at Ventura (CJF) [second earliest] and 25 Apr at Burr Oak (Lindsay Lee fide DeC).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Only reported from MidAmerican Ponds on 26 May (PHA, RIA).

**Indigo Bunting:** First: 23 Apr at Lansing (Ric Zarwell-List) [second earliest] followed by 2 each on 28 Apr at Croton Unit (RLC, THK) and Burr Oak (Lee Zieke fide DeC). A report of a hybrid with Lazuli Bunting was referred to the Records Committee.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** A report was referred to the Records Committee.

**Dickcissel:** First: 2 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Dickcissels were very hard to find in north Iowa before the end of the period (LAS, JJD, MCK, RGo).

**Bobolink:** First: 4 May at Colo Ponds (MPr). Most reported: 100+ males on 6 May near Croton Unit (THK).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** First: 2 on 21 Mar in Boone Co. (KJ).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** First: 8 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

**Rusty Blackbird:** First: 9 Mar at Pine L. (MPr). No one reported any large flocks.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** All: 9 on 22 Apr at Errington Marsh (BE), 3 on 24 Apr near Archer (DK-details), and 25 Apr at Bjorkboda Marsh in Boone Co. (MPr-details).

**Common Grackle:** First: 27 on 21 Mar at Urbandale (BE).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Found in Clay, Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Tama, Polk, Greene, and Fremont counties.

**Orchard Oriole:** First: 28 Apr at Urbandale (BE) and in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Reports of singles spanned the state.

**Baltimore Oriole:** First: 28 Apr in Polk, Marion, and Winneshiek counties. Most reported: 56 on 12 May in Boone Co. (KJ) and 25 on 12 May at Chichaqua WA in Polk Co. (DT).

**Purple Finch:** First and most reported: 20 on 17 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Four more reports of 1-12 birds until 29 Apr at Mason City (RGo).

**Red Crossbill:** 4 on 29 Mar at Tom Kent's feeder (THK) and 1 at a Story Co. feeder 30 Apr-6 May (Isabell Toot fide HZ).

**Pine Siskin:** First and most reported: 5 on 25 Mar at Spirit Lake (ETH). Four other singles until 24 Apr at Algona (MCK).

**Evening Grosbeak:** No reports. The last report of Evening Grosbeak in Iowa was a single bird in April, 1998.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Five reports from their usual haunts in Lee, Louisa, and Johnson counties. Another report was referred to the Records Committee.

CONTRIBUTORS (\* = documentation only)

About a third more observations went into the compilation database this year compared to Spring 2000, even though I received about the same number of reports.

PHA	Pam Allen	West Des Moines
RIA	Reid Allen	West Des Moines
DBi*	Dick Bierman	Cherokee
DeC	Dennis Carter	Decorah
RLC	Ray Cummins	Centerville
JJD	Jim Dinsmore	Ames
MCD	Mike Dooley	Iowa City
CE	Chris Edwards	North Liberty
BE	Berry Engebretsen	Urbandale
PE	Pete Ernzen	Ida Grove
CJF	Carolyn Fischer	Mason City
JLF	Jim Fuller	Iowa City
LG	Lynn Gearhart	Ida Grove
RGo	Rita Goranson	Mason City
DCH	Doug Harr	Larchwood
PH	Paul Hertzell	Mason City
BFH	Bill Huser	South Sioux City, NE
AJ	Ann Johnson	Norwalk
JJ	Jack Jones	Sioux City
KJ	Karl Jungbluth	Boone
MCK	Matt Kenne	Algona
THK	Tom Kent	Iowa City
DKi	Dave Killman	Fairfield
DK	Darwin Koenig	Paullina
FL	Fred Leshner	LaCrosse, WI
CRN	Curt Nelson	Mason City
MO*	Mark Orsag	Crete, NE
BKP	Babs Padelford	Bellevue, NE
LJP	Loren Padelford	Bellevue, NE
MAP	Marietta Petersen	Walnut
HP	Heath Petersen	Fenton
BPr	Beth Proescholdt	Liscomb
MPr	Mark Proescholdt	Liscomb
LAS	Lee Schoenewe	Spencer
JSi	Jim Sinclair	Indianola
TS	Tom Stone	Waterloo
ETh	Ed Thelen	Spirit Lake
RTh	Rob Thelen	Carroll
DT	Dennis Thompson	Johnston



CV	Connie Van Ersvelde	Grinnell
RV	Robert Van Ersvelde	Grinnell
PJW	Phil Walsh	Des Moines
JLW	Jan Walter	Mason City
GDW*	Gerald White	Muscatine
CLW	Charles Winterwood	Dubuque
HZ	Hank Zaletel	Nevada

# Records from the Past

Thomas H. Kent

*This is the second in a series of articles on unpublished rare bird sightings that have been reviewed by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (Kent 2001). Each of the birds in this account represents a first accepted state record.*

**Wood Stork**, 25 September 1977, Mark Twain N.W.R., Louisa Co., M. A. Thwait's, 82-AA

Iowa's only accepted record of Wood Stork comes from an ecological survey, and Pete Peterson apparently uncovered the information about it. A "Phone Records" labeled "For Pete Petersen" and signed by Sally Hinz is dated 6-3-82 and comprises a page of notes of a conversation with Bob Sanz of Ecology Consultants, Inc. of ERT at Fort Collins, Colorado. The content of the phone conversation is similar to the page of notes, which probably was photocopied and sent by mail. The notes are dated "25 Sept 1977" and contain M. A. Thwait's address label at the bottom. Thwait's writes:

New Stop at #21. Notes on Stop 21 — new stop added 1.5 miles south of Mark Twain boat landing — habitat combined bayou river bottom habitat with open areas — mostly scrubby vegetation with young trees, fence row shrubs, and "old field" type vegetation. Areas around stream and bayou appeared to be ideal habitat for low feeding warblers. Most birds on tally sheet need no explanation, but one individual needs more elaboration: 11:22 — Wood Stork (Ibis) *Mycteria americana*.

Notes: "Travelling NNW" observed approximately "1 minute" with 7 x 50 Binoculars — distance 150 meters maximum. "Large" white bird with "black secondaries and primaries," neck outstretched, legs outstretched, "curved bill," large dark (blackish) head, "curved bill," thickening by base of legs (dark) — tail, "very large almost crane sized."



Thomas H. Kent

The bird was undoubtedly a Wood Stork (Ibis) — the only other birds that are large, white, and have extensive black in the wings are the whooping crane and the white pelican. The Whooping Crane lacks the black secondary feathers and the white pelican does not have black secondaries up to the body as this bird did. The black tail also is only found on the Wood Stork, not on either the whooper or pelican. The posture in flying did not at all resemble that of a pelican, and the dark head and neck and heavy curved bill once again eliminated the crane. If it is a wild bird, it is approximately 250 miles north of its “wandering range” illustrated in *Birds of North America* or perhaps it is an escapee from the St. Louis Zoo.

Based on the one-minute observation time and comment about posture in flight, it would appear that Thwaites only saw the bird in flight. He apparently took notes in the field, which he quotes, and then completed his report later. He clearly was aware that the bird he saw was unusual and took care to eliminate other large white birds with black in the wings. This is the only accepted record of Wood Stork in Iowa, although the occurrence of this species fits the pattern of occasional stray birds seen as far north as Montana, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Michigan since 1960.

**Groove-billed Ani**, 22 October 1966, Cedar Rapids, Robert Vane, 81-NG

This bird was reported by Brown (1971) as a Smooth-billed Ani and by Dinsmore et al. (1984) as ani species. In a letter to Tom Kent dated 27 January 1982, Dr. Robert Vane said, “The report of a Smooth-billed Ani as printed in Woody Brown’s annotated list has to be considered a mistake. I remember discussing it with him at one time and apparently the wrong idea was conveyed. I am sorry there was any mistake. But now we have a chance to correct it.”

Dr. Vane included with his letter a copy of his report titled “Groove-billed Ani” dated “Oct. 23, 1966” that he intended to submit to *Iowa Bird Life*. It is my recollection that he told me personally that he did not submit the article because of disagreement with the other observers about the identification. I quote the entire report:

On Saturday afternoon, Oct. 22, 1966, a telephone call to our home from a resident of Bever Avenue S.E., Cedar Rapids, brought the information that an ani had been seen in her back yard and would we please come over.

Soon, Jean and I were inside her home looking out, and sure enough, an ani was present. The bird had been around for most of the afternoon feeding on the ground along a row of shrubbery, which bordered several vacant lots on a hillside. The vacant lots were grown up with weeds, and in the background were small trees up to six inches in diameter.

I immediately called Myra Willis, president of IOU, who arrived in a few minutes. We then went outdoors to see the bird more closely. We observed the bird in good sunlight from distances as close as 25 feet. The tremendous bill and long tail were remarkable as was its manner of flight. At times we could make out [a] longitudinal line on the upper mandible.

Luckily, as it proved later, we heard the call of the bird a good many times and we all remarked on the two notes of which the call was made up.

A third person, Lillian Serbousek, was then telephoned, and when she arrived the bird was observed with a 15-power telescope from distances of 100 feet in good sunlight. I must say that at that particular time, since the bird was new to us, we were not absolutely sure whether it was a Smooth-billed or Groove-billed Ani.

Upon returning home, however, we found in Bent, "The note of the Smooth-billed Ani has been called a wailing or whining whistle—resembling the notes of the wood duck." Our bird's call note was not a whistle at all. And then we found in Pough's *Eastern Land Birds* under Smooth-billed Ani, "The two anis are hard to tell apart except by note, the whining notes of this species being in sharp contrast to the soft double note of the groove-billed."

So for my part, that settled it that our bird was a Groove-billed Ani. We note that there was a Minnesota specimen collected in October 1913, and Martin Grant refers to an Iowa record about 1940.

In 1983, with Vane's letter and article in hand, the Records Committee twice accepted the record as ani species, but rejected the identification as to species by a 4 to 3 vote. In 1993, I requested re-evaluation of this record and presented the following argument, "The reviewers do not provide a very extensive analysis of this record. I would almost accept this record as groove-billed on probability alone. I suggest that the description and voice are good enough, in spite of

the reservations of the observers. I listened to tapes of the two anis and they sound quite different. The smooth-billed has a whiney sound and the groove-billed has notes. Vane describes the grooves on the bill, and I think he would have noted the peaked bill of a Smooth-billed Ani. Thus, there are four good points for groove-billed (probability, voice, grooves on bill, lack of peaked bill). That's as good as we had for the Jasper County bird except for the photograph (actually better because of the song)."

The 1993 review finally established this report as the first accepted record of Groove-billed Ani for Iowa. The only other accepted record for Iowa was from Jakob Krumm Wildlife Area in Jasper County from 19 October to 25 November 1987 (Koenig 1988). Reports of this species in the upper Middle West in fall are not unexpected. This pattern was not so well known in the 1960s, and procedures for documentation and review of rare birds were not established at that time.

### Black-throated Sparrow. 16

March to 9 April 1993, Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Maurice and Ruby Hanson and others, 93-19.

Maurice and Ruby Hanson discovered Iowa's first Black-throated Sparrow under their feeder at Waterloo on 16 March 1993. They reported their find to Francis Moore, who passed the word on to others. The first of seven descriptions written by Jim Fuller on 17 March is reproduced below. On 20 March, Randy

Pinkston sketched the bird in his

field notebook (Figure 1) and Reid Allen photographed it (Figure 2). The photograph was previously published in *American Birds* (Brock 1993).

The general size was more dainty than the House Sparrows nearby. They were the only other birds available for size comparison. The bird was also relatively longer tailed than House Sparrow. The most striking feature was the black bib, which was somewhat diamond shaped, covering the throat and coming to a

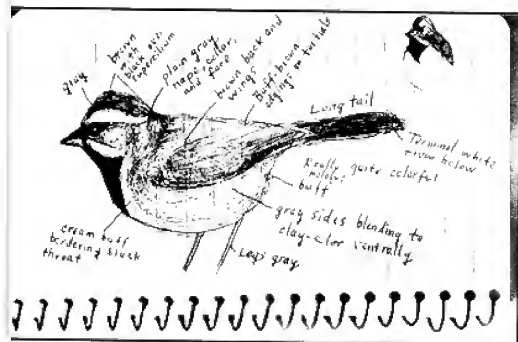


Figure 1. Black-throated Sparrow, 20 March 1993, Waterloo, Black Hawk County. Sketch by Randy Pinkston.

point on the upper breast. The black contrasted with the white breast and belly. There were two very prominent white stripes on the side of the head—one above the eye, and the other angling down from the corner of the bill. The crown was a sooty gray-brown color, as was the back. The eye was dark. The short, pointed bill was gray, with the lower mandible appearing lighter than the upper. The folded wing and tail were darker than the back, and there were no noticeable wing bars. The belly was white, but appeared to be more gray toward the sides. The legs were dark. I did not see the undertail or vent areas. The bird was more animated than the House Sparrow. No vocalization was heard.



Figure 2 Black-throated Sparrow, 20 March 1993, Waterloo, Black Hawk County. Photo by Reid I. Allen.

The winter of 1992–1993 brought unprecedented numbers of Black-throated Sparrows north from their normal range in the Southwest. Birds in New Jersey, Quebec, Ontario, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas (Brock 1993; Kaufman 1993; Tesson 1993) represent about half of all the extralimital records up to that time.

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# Gyr Falcon in Boone County

Stephen J. Dinsmore<sup>1</sup> and James J. Dinsmore<sup>2</sup>



*Gyr Falcon, Eastern Boone Co., Iowa, 22 December 2000. Photo by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*

On 21 December 2000, SJD was driving west along Highway 30 in eastern Boone County. At 2:50 P.M., he saw a large raptor land in a cedar tree northwest of the junction of Highway 30 and V Avenue. His initial impression was that the bird was a falcon. As he drove closer, he began to suspect that the wind had fooled him and that the bird was probably a *buteo*.

However, as he drove past the bird he noted its large size, streaked underparts, and the fact that it was perched atop a tree in blizzard conditions with 30+ mph winds. None of this seemed typical of a *buteo* so he turned around for a closer look. He drove to within 25 meters of the bird and quickly identified it as a juvenile gray morph Gyr Falcon. He studied the bird

until 2:58 P.M. when it took flight and flew out of sight to the northeast.

The bird was clearly a large falcon because of the long tail and long, pointed wings. The wings were very broad at the base, a feature that initially caused him to think the bird was a *buteo*. When perched, the long tail extended well beyond the wingtips. The bird was generally a dull, gray-brown color on the upperparts (head, upperwings, mantle, and uppertail) with paler underparts that were heavily streaked with dark brown. He also noted a faint dark whisker mark and curious pale crescents on the sides of the face that also were evident when the bird was facing away from him. On closer inspection, he noted that the bird's uppertail was lightly barred. In flight, the underwings were pale with fine dark mottling. The axillars were

pale. The flight was very direct with powerful wing beats, and the bird had no trouble flying directly into the strong winds. At 4 P.M., we returned to the place of the original sighting and drove the roads in the immediate area, but we were unable to relocate the bird.

On the morning of 22 December, with bitter cold sub-zero temperatures, both of us returned the site of the original sighting. After searching unsuccessfully for the bird to the north of Highway 30, we started south on U Avenue. We soon met Jon Bahrenfus, manager of the nearby Iowa State University Agronomy Farm, and he informed us that he thought he had just seen the bird chasing a white-tailed jackrabbit in one of his fields. In a scan of the field, we soon saw the Gyrfalcon feeding on what was probably a jackrabbit. With Jon and Joyce Bahrenfus and Hank Zaletel, we studied the bird at close range from 8:20 to 8:45 A.M. as it alternately fed and chased jackrabbits and then eventually perched on a high-tension power pole south of the farm. We confirmed many of the same field marks SJD had noted the evening before. The bird was a very massive falcon, at least twice as large as an American Crow and at least as large as a Red-tailed Hawk. The bird was powerfully built and had the wrong shape for a Prairie or Peregrine Falcon, both of which are sligher and have different wing and tail proportions. We left the area in mid-morning and returned in mid-afternoon to find the bird perched on a power pole along the south side of Highway 30 more than half a mile west of U Avenue and nearly two miles from the original sighting. We studied the bird from 2:20 to 2:25 P.M. and SJD took many photos. On the basis of the gray-brown coloration, face pattern, and tail markings we concluded that the bird was a juvenile gray morph Gyrfalcon. The bird was almost certainly a female on the basis of the very large size. The Gyrfalcon was reported sporadically for the next several days, but most of these sightings were brief and few offered definitive views.

Gyrfalcons are rare winter vagrants to the upper Midwest. Most records are in the period of November through March, although there are a few records as early as September and as late as April. They are of regular occurrence in North and South Dakota and Minnesota and casual or accidental elsewhere. There are two previous Iowa records, both from the northern tier of counties: 27 March 1992 in north-western Kossuth Co. (Bolduan 1994) and 25 September 1993 near Spirit L., Dickinson Co. (Silcock 1994). The winter 2000-2001 season saw a strong flight of Gyrfalcons to the upper Midwest with



records from most states to the north of Iowa and one or two additional records from northern Iowa.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Bolduan, B. 1994. Gyrfalcon in Kossuth County. Iowa Bird Life 64:21-22.

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## Pygmy Nuthatch at Algona

Matthew C. Kenne

*Riverview Cemetery is Algona's oldest cemetery, and it has always been one of my favorite spots for quick birding. I was walking my dog through Riverview at about 2:45 P.M. on 30 October 2000 when I heard unfamiliar calls from a small nuthatch as it flew overhead and landed in the top of a young (20 to 25 ft.) spruce.*

The bird appeared to be the size of a Red-breasted Nuthatch, although I could not compare it to anything in flight. But it was whitish below instead of reddish. The calls sounded like "peet, peet" and were unlike those of White-breasted or Red-breasted nuthatches. I followed it across the cemetery until I left at 3:15 P.M., having identified the bird as a Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaca*).

The nuthatch was very active, usually foraging in the interior of the tops of small spruce trees, providing only quick glimpses in the open. Some of its movements may have been caused by my presence because I was usually observing from 30 to 40 ft. away with the afternoon sun behind me. The nuthatch stopped once in a small,

fully leafed maple tree, and once landed briefly in a large, leafless oak tree before moving on to another spruce.

Many field marks were visible with binoculars during observation, but only briefly. The Pygmy Nuthatch was pale blue-gray above, paler than our regular nuthatches, and whitish on the face below the eye, and on the throat, breast, and belly. It had a grayish cap bordered by an indistinct darker line through the eye. The cap was a plain gray, without blue, but I could not discern any of the brownish tone shown in field guides. The darker eyeline passed down the sides of the neck behind the auriculars. The bird's back was palest on the nape, but only later did I find in field guides that this is an actual spot. Some white was visible once in the tail corners as it flipped over a cone cluster, and there was some white apparent at the base of the darker folded primaries, but I did not note either of these marks in flight. The nuthatch appeared to be the same blue-gray under the tail as on the back.

The Pygmy Nuthatch was quite vocal, giving mostly the clear "peet" calls, singly, or two or three separated, but a few times it made quiet "chup"s. Louder "peet"s were given several times when the nuthatch was agitated by Dark-eyed Juncos. The bird was substantially smaller than the juncos, not close to the same size like White-breasted Nuthatches are. Twice, the nuthatch ran on a long series of "peet"s with an up/down/up/down/up in pitch at the end. None of these vocalizations sounded like the Brown-headed Nuthatch on Peterson's Eastern bird tape that I listened to the next day. This vocal difference, along with the lack of dark brown in the cap and the presence of obvious white in the primary bases, eliminated the possibility of this bird being a Brown-headed Nuthatch.

The Pygmy Nuthatch is a resident of mountainous western pine forests. It can be found as close to Iowa as the Black Hills of South Dakota, but it seldom wanders far from the breeding range. There are extralimital records from northeastern Texas, Kansas, the North Dakota/Minnesota border, and one record from Des Moines, Iowa from January 26 to April 15, 1977 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). In October of 2000, however, Colorado birders reported widespread irruptions of many montane species, including Pygmy Nuthatches, into the foothills and onto the plains. Because I had been in the cemetery twice between rain showers on October 29th without finding the bird, the Pygmy Nuthatch most likely arrived on the 30th following the passage of a storm system out of the southwest. Several

birders extensively searched Riverview Cemetery early on the morning of the 31st, but the Pygmy Nuthatch could not be relocated.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Kent, T. H., and J. J. Dinsmore. 1996. *Birds in Iowa*. Published by the authors, Iowa City and Ames. 391 pp.

709 N. Phillips, Algona, Iowa 50511 (meekeckk@rconnect.com)

## **Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life**

*James J. Dinsmore*

*An article on Northern Bobwhite fall and winter mortality by Robert Mangold is the lead article in the September 1951 issue of Iowa Bird Life. Working in Decatur and Wayne counties in southern Iowa, he estimated mortality at about 33% with much of it from undetermined causes. Although bobwhite still persist in that area, the current populations are much smaller than those present when Mangold did his study.*

A second major paper describes the breeding birds at Credit Island in Davenport. Written by long-time IOU member James Hodges, the article documents the breeding birds found there in 1949 and 1950. American Redstart, House Wren, and Warbling Vireo were the most abundant of the 48 species he found nesting there. It would be fascinating for someone to duplicate this study now to see what changes have occurred.

Among the book reviews was one of Olin Sewall Pettingill's bird finding guide for sites east of the Mississippi River, a book that still has some utility. Pettingill has been a member of the IOU since 1937, longer than any other member.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014-3907 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)





#### MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *IOU News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the winter issue, 15 February for the spring issue, 15 May for the summer issue, and 15 July for the fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

#### MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available. For an order form, send a self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds*, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



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Spring 2002, 26–28 April, Ottumwa, IA

#### FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439, Kay@KayNiyo.com). An article describing the reporting process also is available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

**Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March** (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

**Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June** (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, meeckeckk@rconnect.com)

**Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August** (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

**Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December** (Paul Hertzelt, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA 51401-5836, phertzelt@connect.com)



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### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Aaron Brees, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 509 S. West Street, Corydon, IA 50060 (abrees@hotmail.com)

IOWA BIRDLINE: (712) 364-2863 (pkernzen@pionet.net)

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Peter Ernzen checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU HOMEPAGE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

### IOU NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors, Paul Hertzell, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA 51401-5836 (phertzell@rconnect.com)

### REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005 (lpdlfrd@juno.com). Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net)



